

Attendees - voting members

Heath J Nix	Vice Chair
Jarrold Hambric	Board Member
Jackie C Sasfai	Board Member
Dio Vannucci	Board Member
Jonathan Woolbright	Board Member

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:26 by Heath Nix.

II. Establishment of Quorum

Members absent:

Jeff Morrow
Randy Mitchell

III. Information Items and Reports

Mr. Collum presented the history of salaries, enrollment, raises and bonuses for the past few years. There was discussion on the difference between a raise and a bonus and how each affects the budget. We are working on a plan to give all employees a bonus this year. We will look at addressing a raise for next year. There are two major areas that we need to address when considering raises:

1. Salaries for starting teachers to be more competitive. Currently we are in the top 20 percent for the state, but we are still lower than some of our neighboring (smaller) districts.
2. Adding additional steps to the certified salary schedule. Currently our schedule only goes to 23 steps. We need to look at adding more steps to reward and retain our teachers who have stayed in the district.

This meeting was to discuss the plans for a bonus this year, but to also plant the seed for the conversations that need to start taking place about the starting teacher salary disparity and the need to add additional steps.

Board members agreed on the need to add steps to the salary schedule, but the more pressing need is to increase our starting teacher salaries. This year, we will proceed with a bonus, but next year we will look at addressing the starting teacher salary.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

President

Secretary

Benton School District

Meeting Minutes

**Benton Board of Education-Lunch with the
Board/Board Workshop
10/23/2015 11:30:00 AM**
BJH and Chenault Administration Building
207 W. Conway Street

Attendees - voting members

Heath J Nix	Vice Chair
Jarrood Hambric	Board Member
Randy Mitchell	Board Member
Jeff Morrow	Board Member
Jackie C Sasfai	Board Member
Dio Vannucci	Board Member
Jonathan Woolbright	Board Member

I. Call to Order

The lunch meeting began at 11:30 a.m.

II. Establishment of Quorum

All members, with the exception of Jeff Morrow and Jackie Sasfai, were present at the lunch meeting. Mr. Morrow and Mrs. Sasfai joined the meeting when it reconvened at Central Office.

III. Lunch at Benton Junior High School

IV. Recess - Move to Central Office

The meeting recessed at 12:00 p.m. to move to Central Office

V. Reconvene at Central Office

The meeting reconvened at 12:22 at Central Office with all members present.

VI. Information Items and Reports

- A. Middle School Expansion Update
- B. Traffic Plan Updates
- C. 7th Grade Athletics

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

President

Secretary

Benton School District

Meeting Minutes

**Benton Board of Education-
Annual Report to Public
10/26/2015 5:00:00 PM**
Professional Development Center
211 North Border Street

Attendees - voting members

Heath J Nix	President
Jonathan Woolbright	Board Member
Randy Mitchell	Board Member
Jeff Morrow	Board Member
Jackie C Sasfai	Board Member
Dio Vannucci	Board Member
Jarrold Hambric	Secretary

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m., by Heath Nix.

II. Establishment of Quorum

All members were present.

III. Annual Report to the Public- Karla Neathery

Karla Neathery presented the Annual Report.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

President

Secretary

Attendees - voting members

Heath J Nix	President
Jonathan Woolbright	Vice President
Randy Mitchell	Board Member
Jeff Morrow	Board Member
Jackie C Sasfai	Board Member
Dio Vannucci	Board Member
Jarrold Hambric	Secretary

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Heath Nix.

II. Establishment of Quorum

All members were present

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. REORGANIZE BOARD

- A. President
5:32 p.m. - Motion made by Jonathan Woolbright to nominate Heath Nix as President. Motion was seconded by Jackie Sasfai. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Vice-President
5:33 p.m. - Motion made by Jeff Morrow and seconded by Jarrod Hambric to nominate Jonathan Woolbright as Vice President. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Secretary
5:34 p.m. - Motion made by Jeff Morrow and seconded by Jonathan Woolbright to nominate Jarrod Hambric as Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

V. District News - Superintendent/Panther Pride

- A. Benton Middle School & Ringgold Elementary Named High Achieving Schools
- B. Benton Schools Recognized by APSRC
- C. Recognition of School Resource Officers
- D. Recognition of Principals and Assistant Principals

VI. Consent Agenda

5:46 p.m. - Jackie Sasfai made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright. Motion passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

- A. Reading of Previous Minutes
- B. Personnel Recommendations/HR Report
- C. Financial Reports - Laura Baber
- D. Approval of Gifts/Donations - Randy McFarlin
- E. Arkansas State Security Maintenance Agreement

- F. SRO Payment for 1st and 2nd Quarters - Laura Baber

VII. Action Items

- A. Request to Purchase Access Points - Sherri Fite
As part of the 1:1 initiative, Technology submitted a request to purchase 94 access points to upgrade our wireless network to the latest wireless protocol.

Jeff Morrow commented that it would be helpful to the board if we could provide information on the budgets from which these purchases come. We deal with some large amounts and they can be overwhelming. Having additional information would be beneficial.

5:49 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion that was seconded by Randy Mitchell to approve the request as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Certificate of Appointment - Jeff Collum
Arkansas code requires the board to appoint a District Treasurer. This person will serve in that capacity until the board appoints a new treasurer. Laura Baber serves as the District Treasurer and CFO.

5:50 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion that was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright to approve the appointment of Laura Baber as District Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Matching Funds Requests - Laura Baber
Annually, there is \$5,000 per elementary campus budgeted for playground maintenance/repairs. As they have done for the last couple of years, Caldwell Elementary and Ringgold Elementary schools requested permission to use those funds for other purposes. Caldwell wants to install a walking track and Ringgold wants to purchase additional technology.

5:52 Jonathan Woolbright made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Motion was seconded by Jarrod Hambric. Motion passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

- D. Annual Resolution for Act 1120 - Laura Baber
Act 1120 went into effect last year and it requires districts to report any increase in salary that is 5% or more over the previous year's salary. Reasons for the increase must also be reported.

5:55 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion that was seconded by Jackie Sasfai to approve the resolution as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- E. Contract Disclosure - Laura Baber
Jeff Collum presented the contract disclosures for Balloonatics and Bill's Flower shop, both of which are owned by Laura Baber's brother-in-law. Mrs. Baber has no financial interest in the businesses. Mrs. Baber excused herself from the meeting for the presentation and voting of this item, and returned after the vote.

5:57 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion that was seconded by Randy Mitchell to approve the contract closures as presented. Motion passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Jeff Collum excused himself from the meeting while Laura Baber presented the contract disclosure for Apple, Inc. Mr. Collum's brother works in the retail division of Apple, Inc. and he is based out of the Dallas area. Mr.

Collum's brother receives no financial gain from Benton School District. The District had a relationship with Apple, Inc. before Mr. Collum came to work here. This disclosure is not required, but in the spirit of full disclosure, Mr. Collum continues to present it every year. Mr. Collum returned to the meeting after the vote.

5:59 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion to approve the contract disclosure as presented. Motion was seconded by Dio Vannucci. Motion passed unanimously.

- F. Transfer of Student Requests - Mark McDougal
We continue to receive student transfer requests. The process is almost "too easy." There are various reasons for the requests, but the power resides in the boards to vote. With this batch of requests, we are actually gaining 3 students and losing 1.

6:05 p.m. - Jeff Morrow made a motion that was seconded by Jackie Sasfai to approve the transfer requests as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- G. Ringgold Parking Addition Change Order - Kevin Chastain
The Ringgold parking addition project came in \$345.36 under budget.

6:07 p.m. - Jonathan Woolbright made a motion to approve the change order as presented. Motion was seconded by Dio Vannucci. Motion passed unanimously.

- H. Middle School Expansion Update - Kevin Chastain
Site work is underway for the middle school expansion project, and things are progressing nicely. Administration is requesting approval for the GMP (guaranteed maximum price) budget. Total projections are at \$6,561,936 for the project, and of that, the board has already approved (September 14, 2015) \$335,290 for the Early Site Package. Administration is now requesting approval of the remaining \$6,226,646 (NOTE: This bid comes in under our original estimate of \$7 million).

6:11 p.m. - Jarrod Hambric made a motion that was seconded by Jonathan Woolbright to approve the GMP budget. Motion passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

VIII. Information Items

- A. Traffic Study Update - Kevin Chastain
We are still exploring options to alleviate some of the traffic congestion. We are considering eliminating all parallel parking at the middle school, creating a true "drop-off" lane (that would be pending approval from the City of Benton). We continue to have talks with a private property owner to try and secure easement rights or to purchase a small parcel of that private property that would give us access to the sports complex. We are waiting to hear back from that property owner.
- B. New Benton Alum Feature - Sherri Fite
We will start a campaign to highlight Benton alumni on our website. There will be a link for nominations and we will highlight a new person monthly/bi-weekly/weekly, depending on the entries. When we are ready to launch this new feature, we will promote it in the local paper, on the website and on social media.
- C. BHS 15-Minute Delayed Start Plan - Lita Gattis

IX. Department Reports

- A. Facilities Report - Kevin Chastain
- B. Curriculum & Instruction - Karla Neathery
- C. Athletics Report - Randy McFarlin
- D. Transportation Report- John Thompson
- E. Food Service/Child Nutrition - Martha Nehus
- F. Personnel/Student Services - Mark McDougal
- G. Technology Report - Sherri Fite
- H. Special Education - Angie McWhorter
- I. Academic Services (CTE/GT/Special Programs) - Angie Dischinger

X. Superintendent's Report

- A. Audit Report Update
- B. October 27, 2015 (tomorrow) - Justin Moore/Night to be Great Event
- C. November 9, 2015 @ 3:30pm - School Board Pictures
Jackets, no ties.
- D. November 9, 2015 @ 4:00pm - Roles and Responsibilities of Board Workshop
- E. November 9, 2015 @ 5:30pm - Regular School Board Meeting

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

President

Secretary